



Press Advisory

District of Columbia National Guard



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The Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy holds first Open House at DC Armory Saturday Nov. 1

WASHINGTON D.C. – *The Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy* staff and volunteers will hold an Open House at the DC National Guard Armory from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1

Date/Time – Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location – DC National Guard Armory, 2001 East Capitol Street, Washington DC

The Youth Challenge program is sponsored by the DC National Guard. It provides 16- to 19-year-old high school dropouts an opportunity to earn a GED. Graduates also obtain job skills and a sense of confidence.

The purpose of the Open House is to educate local parents about the program and recruit teenagers for the next class, which begins in January 2009. The schedule includes an orientation about the program, registration, and in-processing of teenagers with applications already on file. In addition, the 3rd Dimension Band, a group of locally talented musicians, will play during the Open House.

The DCNG program is entering its third year after graduating its first class in June 2007. The 22-week, community based program is chartered by Congress. The goal is to teach and mentor at-risk youth so they can become productive citizens in America's future.

Cadets must be drug-free and not in trouble with the law. It is a voluntary program consisting of a 5-1/2 month residential phase and a one-year post residential phase.

There are 34 National Guard Youth Challenge programs nationwide. Almost three-fourths of the students earn their high school diploma or GED, and a quarter of the graduating class goes on to higher education.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews at 202-685-9862.